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Message Text

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14
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 NASA-04 CCO-00 CIAE-00

OTP-02 FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00

GAC-01 ACDA-19 DODE-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 SCI-06 SS-15

H-02 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /167 W
---------- 026441
R 250750 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6496
INFO USINT CAIRO
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPT PASS NASA

PARIS FOR UNESCO

E. O. 10652: N/ A
TAGS: ETEL XI XF
SUBJECT: CERP/ EAL: ARAB REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
SATELLITE SYSTEM.

REF: A-2545, DTD. MARCH 22, 1973

SUMMARY KUWAIT UNDERSECRETARY PTT TOLD EMBOFF ARAB TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION CONTINUING STUDY OF REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SYSTEM WHICH INTENDED FOR EDUCATIONAL TV, TELEPHONE, TELGRAPH AND TELEX. ALTHOUGH PLANNING STILL IN EARLY STAGES AND SEVERAL PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT, PROJECT WILL HAVE APPEAL TO MANY ARAB STATES. EMBASSY BELIEVES USG SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO OFFERING LAUNCHING SERVICES AT APPROPRIATE TIME. END SUMMARY
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1. ABDUL RAHMAN AL- GHUNAIM ON OTHER SUBJECTS EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT ARAB LEAGUE PLANS FOR REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SYSTEM. GHUNAIM SAID MATTER WAS BEING STUDIED WITHIN ARAB TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ATU). HE SAID PLAN ENTAILS USE OF COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE FOR EDUCATIONAL T. V., TELEPHONE, TELEGRANP & TELEX. HE NOTED THAT ORIGINALLY PRIMARY INTEREST WAS ON EDUCATIONAL TV AND THAT UNESCO HAS BEEN INVOLVED, BUT TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASPECTS WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT BECUASE IT IS HOPED SYSTEM WILL BE PAID FOR AT LEAST IN PART THROUGH INCOME FROM TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.

2. RE GOK POSITION, UNDERSECRETARY SAID KUWAIT HAS NEITHER APPROVED NOR REJECTED PLAN. HE SAID THERE WERE MANY PROBLEMS INVOLVED ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT ELABORATE. HE INDICATED THAT MATTER WILL BE UNDER CONTINUAL DISCCUSSION WITHIN ATU AND AMONG APPRO-PRIATE ARAB OFFICIALS FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

3. RE SERVICES, EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER ANY THOUGH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO QUESTION OF WHO WOULD PROVIDE LAUNCHING SERVICES. GHUNAIM INDICATED MATTER HAD BEEN GIVEN SOME CONSIDERATION BUT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE. HE DID NOT REJECT POSSIBILITY THAT SHOULD PROJECT GOURERWARD, ARABS WOULD ASK U. S. TO LAUNCH AN ARAB COMMUNICA-TIONS SATELLITE.

4. COMMENT: BASED ON REMARKS OF UNDERSECRETARY WHO IN PAST HAS BEEN BOTH HELPFUL AND FRANK WITH EMBASSY ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS MATTERS AND WHO IS WELL INFORMED ON ARAB TELECOMMUNICATIONS, IT APPEARS HOWT OF TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND PERHAPS POLITICAL PROBLEMS ARE CONNECTED WITH THIS PROJECT. NEVERTHELESS PROSPECT OF OMPROVED EDUCATIONAL AND TELECOMMUNICA-TIONS FACILITIES SUGGESTS THAT PROJECT WILL BE GIVEN SERIOUSCONSIDERATION. PRESENTLY, IT APPEARS TO BE UNDER STUDY AT TECHNICAL LEVEL AND ACCORDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO UNDERSECRETARY, THERE IS NOT EVEN FORMAL WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED WITHIN ATU YET.

5. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, SHOULD PROJECT GO FORWARD QUESTION OF LAUNCHING SERVICES WILL ARISE. EMBASSY BELEIVES OFFER OF US LAUNCHING SERVICES, IF MADE AT APPROPRIATE TIME IN LOW KEY MANNER WITH ATU OFFICIALS

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OR WITH KEY INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS GHUNAIM, COULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY ARABS WITH POSITIVE POLITICAL BENEFIT TO USG. IT SEEMS CONSIDERATION OF THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH NASA SATELLITE LAUNCHING POLICY AND COULD BE VIEWED AS INDICATION OF DESIRE BY USG TO BE HELPFUL TO ARABS IN REGIONAL PROJECT OF INTEREST TO THEM.
EMBASSY INTERESTED VIEWS OF DEPARTMENT AND CAIRO.
DECONTROL 5/1/74.
STOLTZFUS

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